



Contest Gazette

Florida Contest Group

www.floridacontestgroup.com

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November 2021

From the President's Corner

Chris Plumblee, W4WF, FCG President



Belated greetings to FCG members everywhere! This issue of the *Gazette* marks the beginning of a new season of the *Gazette* and the FCG. I was very saddened at the end of September to learn that K4LQ had passed away. Fred was the longest-serving officer in the FCG, a club that is marked by the long tenure of its officers. Among the highest profile of his jobs with the club was as editor of the *Gazette*. A million thanks to Marty Brown N4GL who has agreed to take on the editorship of the *Contest Gazette* going forward. To crib a line from every club newsletter editor with which I'm familiar, the content in the *Gazette* will be as good as the contributions from our members. So, expect to hear general requests from Marty each quarter for content for the *Gazette*, and some of you should expect individual requests from me or George or Dan for more specific articles that might be of interest.

Though we are all saddened by Fred's passing, the contest season waits for no one, and CQWW SSB (which happened the weekend prior to this writing) had Cycle 25 showing its first signs of life after teasing everyone in CQWW CW last year. A flux of >110 reminded us that Europeans do have frequency allocations at 28MHz. Fortunately, the flare that was expected to crash the party on Sunday morning seemed to hold off the worst of its effects until Monday. The flux has dropped consistently through this week, but I'm hopeful that the 28-day cycle will push conditions back up for CQWW CW at the end of November and for the ARRL 10m contest in early December.

Speaking of the ARRL 10m Contest, look elsewhere in the *Gazette* for a reprint of WC4E's article about how to succeed in the ARRL 10m Contest from Florida. Jeff has a longtime track record of success in the ARRL 10m Contest. After a sojourn in Western Massachusetts, we're so pleased that Jeff and his family have relocated back to Florida again. Jeff's article was originally published in the *Contest Gazette* in 1996 and republished in 2002 shortly after the peak of the biggest cycle in modern history. Thanks to Jeff for taking time to excavate the file on his computer (no doubt it dates from several computers ago) and update it for publication. The FCG has a tradition of strong performance in the ARRL 10m Contest, with a number of Medium Club and Unlimited Club wins to our credit as a club as well as many category wins by club members. We hope that, if you have time and are otherwise interested, you'll make plans to operate the 2021 ARRL 10m Contest starting on December 10.

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The Contest Gazette is the newsletter of the Florida Contest Group (FCG). The *Gazette* is published quarterly and notifications for input and publication will be on the FCG reflector. Please send input to Marty Brown, N4GL, n4gl.marty@gmail.com. MS Word documents are preferred, or type your article into the body of an email. Pictures are encouraged. Please include names, call signs, and location/event when possible.

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Finally, speaking of club traditions, I'm pleased to announce that we've found a new home for the 2022 Orlando Contest Dinner. Due to cancelling the 2021 dinner, our date was not blocked out on the 2022 events calendar for the American Legion, and they booked a conflicting event on February 11. However, I've located an alternate venue that offers greater capacity (up to 300) and is marginally nearer the Fairgrounds. So, mark your calendar for February 11, 2022. The dinner will be held at Quigley Hall at St. Michael's Episcopal Church at 2499 N. Westmoreland Ave. (at the corner of Westmoreland and Bryn Mawr St.). Parking is available on the church campus as well as on both sides of Bryn Mawr St. We will begin selling tickets very soon. And,

before you panic, we can still provide beer and the caterer will remain the same. If the change to the church hall is successful, we have the option to continue there, but in an abundance of caution I've also asked the American Legion to block out our date on their 2023 calendar.

I hope to see lots of you on the bands in SS CW this weekend, in CQWW CW at the end of November, and in the ARRL 10m Contest in December! I wish all the FCG members around the world a 2021-22 Contest Season!

73/OJ,
Chris W4WF

Fred Perkins, K4LQ SK

Chris Plumblee, W4WF, FCG President

If you joined the FCG anytime between the mid-1990's and 2016, you almost certainly were initially welcomed to the club by K4LQ in his role as Secretary/Treasurer. Fred was the longest-serving officer in a club that has very little turnover in officers from year to year. I was particularly saddened by his death at the end of September, because Fred was a very quiet, very unassuming worker who made my time as member, and my time as President of the FCG much easier and more productive. Some new FCG members may not know Fred well or know how he contributed to the success of the FCG over time. I've written the following profile of Fred to shed some light on his life and accomplishments as well as some of the ways that he was of service to the FCG over these last ~25 years.

Fred was initially licensed in 1950 as W1TBS. His first contest experience was a June VHF Contest from New Hampshire in 1951 with his uncle (W1FZ) who was also his elmer. At the 2017 Orlando Contest Dinner speaker K0DQ did a sort of reverse countdown to see when the attendees had started their contesting career. As you would expect in our demographic, most of the attendees sat down when he asked about the 1970's. There were a few in the 1960's. He went year-by-year in the 1950's and Fred was the last one standing (his win may come with an asterisk, as W1YL was not able to attend that year).

Fred spent much of his career with Lockheed Martin and various predecessor companies working throughout the world, with stops including C6ACZ, VP2AAP, VP2LU, VP2MD, VP5FP, VP7BE, VP7BG, VQ8BQ, and ZD8FP. After he left Lockheed he spent a few years managing Radio Shack stores and, separately, a hotel in the Caribbean. Fred met and married his wife Sheila while stationed in South Africa in the 1960's.

Fred was a longtime member of the South Florida DX Association, dating from an assignment to Ft. Lauderdale working at the FCC Monitoring Station in 1976. He began DXing in earnest while living in Ft. Lauderdale, but noted several times that he'd been the DX for many of his contemporaries in the 1960's and early 1970's, which did nothing to add to his DXCC totals from the USA. Despite his concerns, he was a very accomplished DXer with 344 confirmed entities in the latest DXCC yearbook. In 2017 when he was inducted in the FCG Hall of Fame, Fred was missing Bouvet and Scarborough Reef to be at the top of the Honor Roll.



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Fred selflessly took on the responsibilities of FCG Secretary/Treasurer when the club was much smaller than it is today. In the FCG's early days, the White family made up more than 10% of the entire roster. Our records of the early days of the club are fragmentary, so I'm not sure when Fred became Secretary/Treasurer of FCG, but it predated K1TO taking over as President in 1997.

Fred's tenure as an officer was a tangible link to the K4OJ administration and the club's early days, and Fred was an active part of the club's leadership team as the roster grew from ~30 to > 300 members. In addition to managing the roster, Fred was the editor of the Contest Gazette. Originally the Gazette was published quarterly, then as contributions from the membership declined and Fred's macular degeneration made it more difficult for him to edit the document the publication schedule changed to semi-yearly. Fred published the last edition of the Gazette in 2020 following that year's Orlando Hamcation.

One of the areas where Fred was of particular service to the FCG was in managing ham radio estates. The first record I can find of this sort of activity was when Fred, along with W4QM and others, helped take down W4AI's antennas and tower in the early 2000's. Much of W4AI's outside hardware, which was originally conceived as 3x 140' towers and low band verticals and wires at John's home in the Sebring area, was eventually sold and shipped to fellow FOC-er GM3POI in Scotland. Later, W4QM donated a considerable portion of his equipment to the FCG to be sold at various hamfests. Likewise with N4TO and, most recently, G4BUE/N4CJ (Chris is not a Silent Key, but had to sell his home in Sebring and move full-time back to England). Fred dutifully sat at many a hamfest table, primarily but not exclusively at Melbourne, with a sprinkling of items from various FCG members and a bunch of stuff from his collection of SK equipment. He cataloged and inventoried the equip-

ment, charged reasonable prices for it, and selflessly donated the proceeds to the club. The proceeds from W4QM's equipment alone totaled several thousand dollars.

In addition to his work supporting the club, Fred was no slouch as an operator. He was a 40-year FOC member (#1434), having been invited to join in 1981 when he was VP5FP. He was a DXer first and foremost, but he had embraced contesting enthusiastically and had a stack of plaques for winning the W1CW/K4OJ Memorial SOHPCW plaque in the FQP, finishing with > 1000 QSOs several times. He was frequently to be found in RTTY and CW contests, though he found a microphone for the ARRL 10m Contest most years, where he operated Mixed mode to maximize the club score despite his preference for CW. In recent years, he had started operating more FT8 in a quest for new band-countries.

Fred was a health nut who went to the gym every week and was in remarkable shape for a man of 88. His eyesight had deteriorated due to macular degeneration, but he remained active on the air until shortly before his death. I'm as guilty as anyone of taking Fred for granted; he had served faithfully since I joined FCG in 2005 and seemed like he would go on serving, despite all obstacles, for years to come. His passing leaves a big hole in the fabric of the club, as he seemed to know everyone and had deep connections in Florida with many of our longtime members. He expressed several times to me that he took on his role with the FCG when he was newly retired in a quest to make sure he had something to keep busy with. I join with the other officers and members of the FCG, past and present, to thank him for his hard work and loyal service to the club and for his friendship.



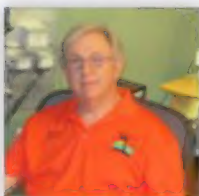


My Friend Fred!

George Wagner, K5KG

My Friend Fred!

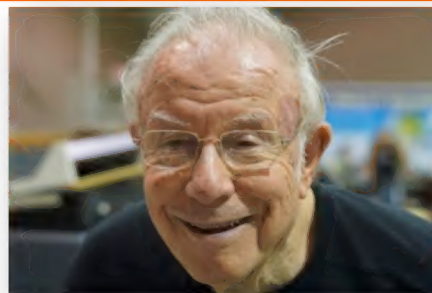
I moved to Florida in the year 2000, and met Fred, K4LQ shortly thereafter, although I do not recall exactly when or where. It might have been at one of the Florida Contest Group (FCG) Vicnics that were held at Vic, NATO's (SK) QTH near Sebring. Fred and Vic lived near each other. It would have been back then when I also met Sheila, Fred's wife. She was from South Africa and had one of those beautiful accents from down under. I would later learn that Fred had spent many years working downrange for the space program and lived in several exotic DX locations. He, no doubt, met Sheila because of those travels. Although I never knew much of their personal details, I did know that they had no children. As far as the DX locations, I do know he spent time in the Seychelles, West Africa, and they lived in Antigua for several years. I'm not sure when they moved to Florida.



Fred was one of the original members of the Florida Contest Group. He served as Secretary/Treasurer and editor of the FCG Gazette for many years. He was a devoted DXer and contester. I understand that he had achieved a 10-Band DXCC. A look at 3830Scores.com back to 2002 shows that he was a regular in ARRL and CQWW WPX CW contests, and even recorded a run in the Makrothen RTTY event in October 2016. Staying true to form as a member of the First Class Operator' Club (FOC), he was not a participant in phone contests!

In the past few years, Fred had been one of the CW operators at K5KG. In 2011, Fred operated in CQWW CW with K8DSS, WC4E, WD4AHZ (SK), and K5KG. In 2019, Fred teamed up with K4EU, K4NMR, K8MR, K5KG, and KW1K in CQWW CW. Later that year, he participated with K5KG, K4EU, K4NMR, and KW1K, signing KW1K in WPX CW. That was Fred's final contest with the K5KG team, although we did not realize it at the time.

My friendship with Fred deepened in recent years when we began traveling together to the Melbourne Hamfest. The road from Sarasota to Melbourne conveniently weaved its way past Fred's QTH in a place called Lake Josephine. It is near Lake Placid in Highlands



Everyone's friend, Fred, K4LQ

County, and nicely situated out in the country. Fred and Sheila had lived there for many years — certainly, all the years I had known them.

When Fred bought the property, he bought the adjoining lot. A few years ago, the county wanted to acquire it for development, so Fred sold it. Fred said it was a good deal at the time and, given that they were getting up in years, it no doubt was. The only downside was that Fred had to remove one of his towers from that lot, so I helped him move it. This left Fred in need of a better antenna. To help Fred with that, I offered to help him by putting up a spare OCF dipole that I was not using. He and I had scheduled a day to get that done, but he gave me a call a week or so later to say that Sheila was not feeling well, so we should cancel the antenna date. It was only a few days after that when both Fred and Sheila were taken to the hospital. Fred passed away the next morning, and Sheila departed a few days later.

Those were especially sad days but with very happy memories.

OJ, George, K5KG



Lou, KE1F and Fred, K4LQ

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(Above) Fred, K4LQ and Chris, W4WF



(Above) Fred, K4LQ holding court at Melbourne Hamfest



Dan, K1TO presenting FCG Hall of Fame Award to Fred, K4LQ

Fred K4LQ, My Right Hand Man

Dan Street, K1TO

Fred was my right-hand FCG man for almost two decades as we grew the FCG from ~35 members into its current state. Fred's newsletters continued the fine tradition established by Ellen W1YL and were in a very similar format to Marty's (N4GL) 20+ years later. His Secretary position meant that Fred was at every meeting and we published minutes in each Gazette. He also collected dues for many years straight as Treasurer, arguably a harder job than any.

Fred was the R-hand man for Vic N4TO who lived just a few miles away in Sebring. Fred would join us as we rapidly climbed the ladder, peaking with a M/M win over NQ4I. The Vicnic as it was coined became a great meeting place, and it was followed with the VVnic in Boca thanks to K9VV/W4LIS. During this period, CW man John Beck W4AI/VQ9J who also resided in Highlands County became stricken with Alzheimer's. Not that long afterward, another CW man Dale W4QM/



VQ9QM (note a S African bent to many of Fred's excursions) and his wife became ill over in Brevard County. Fred pulled yeoman duty with all of these gentlemen.

Prior to living in FL, Fred had arguably the ideal job as he traveled to many of the Caribbean islands that had the Radio Shack presence. Fred said (and I passed along recently to FCGer W0CN who was about to travel there) that J6 St Lucia was the most beautiful of all.

Fred's scores went up over the years - a tribute to his dedication to radiosport. He was the "last man standing" several times at the Orlando Contest Dinner, so his place as the longest-term op has been taken, and was recipient of FCG Hall of Fame plaque #1 (see above). He was also well-known within the FOC ranks and perhaps the long-standing tradition of a December meeting in the Orlando area was due to Fred's help.

Fred's many journeys to the gym emphasized that aspect, too. He relentlessly pursued the ultimate investment strategy and analyzing so much data took its toll on his eyes.

Most importantly, he stayed active right until the end.

RIP Fred



Success for the ARRL 10M contest from Florida "Be The Band"

Jeff Bolda, WC4E

The ARRL 10M contest, one of my favorite contests! I have had some fun in the Mixed Mode category for a few years in the 90s and early 2000s. Below is a summary of random thoughts of the 10 meter contest broken down by time during the contest. I did a similar article in 1996. I have added a few thoughts from the past years. The last few years I was in New England, I heard the FL effect first-hand. While I could not work a sole, I head FL working stations like crazy! Even though this was mostly written in the mid 90's all the concepts apply today. Sunspots are coming back; conditions will improve for a really fun weekend! Let's **all** enjoy it!

00z-04z The start. This part of the contest is mixed with thoughts of "This is really Hot" or "Man, this stinks". Usually, the band is great about an hour BEFORE the contest and seems to die at 2359z. In 1996 I ended Friday evening with 86 qsos, '97 I had over 250. It is a good time to meet all the other guys

in FL with ground scatter. I wouldn't stay up too much longer than 04z, you'll work those guys tomorrow. Get some sleep, it's going to be a very busy day tomorrow.

1100z-1400z, I'm up early, I can't stand the thought of missing something in a single band contest. Turn the beam due east and slowly scan the band for Africa. Late in the 11z hour will most likely net a few SE stations along with an African or two. During high normal conditions, long path to Asia can net a JA or VR2. The band will gradually open up to Europe toward 11:30z, A EU few stations with high antennas can be worked but the band may not be "runable" yet. At 12:00z the band should be fully runable to Europe. Find a frequency, CQ and hang on. The next 3 to 4 hours should produce hours over 100 Q/hr!

14z-18z Along with Europeans, more USA and Canada stations will also call in. It is also a good time to S&P (Search and Pounce) for the EU and Africa stations that are still calling CQ and that don't S&P themselves.

18-23z Most of the stations on the band are North America, and South America with some Pacific. Keep

CQing that rates may still be good. When they drop off, it is a good time to S&P, Africans are loud during this time. Even some SW EU (I/CT/EA8...) is still workable. At the top of the cycle, it is possible to work Europe and JA at the same time during this period.



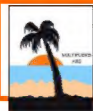
23-01z During this time, the band is mostly USA and Canada with Asia. Here just off the top of the Cycle, many JA's can still be worked along with HL, BY, BV type mult. CQ toward the west to get plenty of VK and ZL QSOs.

01-04z E-Time. **Sporadic-E** that is. It's now well after sunset and the northeast starts to give up on the band. Most of the stations left on the band are the diehards continually calling CQ. This is the most important time of the contest. This is where we can WIN the contest. It is very important not to give up at this time at all. Why? Sporadic E. In 1993, 1985 and 1987, 1997 E-Skip carried several FCG members to a victory with an extra 600 qsos after 01:00z!! In 1994 and 1997, an afternoon of hours in the 60's the band blasted open with a pipeline to W8 and W3 with hours over 180 Qsos and hours with a peak 210 hour at 02:30! No-one else in the world is doing this but Florida. This part of the contest is so exiting, the band is almost dead quiet and you're running guys over 200 an hour! Many guys on the band seem to camp on your run frequency and just sit listen and comment on how they can't hear a single station you're working. I even got into an argument on frequency with a guy who was convinced I was reading out of the call-book. It's a great time to Psych-out the competition. Of all the lower sunspot years I've done, the sporadic-E opening happened most of the years.

In general, we can get Sporadic-E if the A Index is less than 10.

Sunday: Most of the openings should happen nearly at the same time if the Flux and the A&K Indexes stay the same. Naturally, the all hourly rates will not be the

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same but some hours may meet or beat Saturday. The last few hours pick up very well and at 0000z Monday I'm left on frequency with many more stations still calling and the feeling there just isn't enough daylight in one weekend for this contest.

A few other notes about the contest...

Saturday, Run like there is no tomorrow. There just might not be. Just a slight uptick in the A and K index can make Sunday a long day. Keep an eye on the WWV numbers to know what to expect. Higher A and K indexes mean bad news for NE stations, go in for the kill when this happens.

CQ - BE THE BAND! You've got to call CQ, often. Even if the band sounds dead and no one else is around calling CQ, call CQ yourself. You will be surprised sometimes. Be aggressive, **be a beacon**.

Use DX Cluster (with RBN-Skimmer Spots if CW only). If you are casual operating and just want to make max points for the club in your limited time. Use the cluster and pick a node where they show skimmer spots. I use W1VE and show only spots from CQ Zone 5 (I don't need to see W7 and their JA/HL/BY Spots long after band is mostly closed). K1VU/KG4V and K1TTT are useful as well.

Ever since Novices could go on 10M SSB, I have rarely called CQ above 28.500. Novices/Techs are our friends. I love them. I hand hold them the entire contest. I sat and listened to Bill K4XS for hours running them nonstop. (The Xraaaay-Sugar school of begging) I learned to be super nice, teach them how to contest, this could their first contest exposure. If on SSB while calling CQ tell them why you need their QSO (..collecting as many states as I can this weekend..., or: trying to work 3000 QSOs this weekend...) Giving them a reason to work you brings out even multiple family members to mic. They have picked up on the last 2 letters habit from somewhere and I try to gently remind the pile-up that full calls get answered first.

Listen to the band every day leading up to the contest. This will give you best feel for the band than anything. Write down the hour and what you are hearing at that time. Voila, a band plan! Do your homework.

Monitor WWV every day along with the bands. (Or now, look at the Web)

Mixed mode. If you can, use 2 radios! One on SSB and one on CW. A lull on SSB makes for great opportunity to make CW QSOs. The contact can be pre-programmed into keyer memories. It is a must to move needed mults from SSB to CW. It took me over 20 SSB QSOs with WV to finally move one to CW.

I have found Extra / Advanced ops are less likely to move than Novices!! Then, of course, I worked another 5 WV stations later Sunday afternoon. Announce your mode change often, people will find you on the other mode.

Single mode. Still try to use 2 radios! We have discovered that it is totally useless to listen to your own CQ! 10 Meters is wide enough to CQ on one side and still be able to hear on the other. At least use it to listen for multipliers on Sunday. If you work one station S&P on the second radio while running on another, it was worth it. I did CW only category for 10 years and have gone up to SSB (just for fun) and managed to move at least a couple of multipliers to CW.

Remember: CW QSOs = 4 points and SSB QSOs are 2 points and Novice CW QSOs are 8 Points. Of the 7 times I have done mixed mode, CW QSOs have accounted for over 30%. Try for 50% CW QSOs, especially low power.

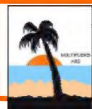
Europe is easier to work on CW then SSB during low spot years and disturbed conditions. It also easier to work Eu early in the opening and band closings. I learned from past years that even if there is slight opening to Europe, CQ often to Europe with the beam skew path around 60 deg. If the band is wide open point the beam direct at 40-45deg.

DC, District of Columbia is a multiplier. If you hear it, anywhere, work it! Keep an ear out for W3USS.

Mexico States are mults now as well. Work every XE you can find.

The LU novice band is 28.900 - 29.000 mhz. I never did go that high, I worked tons of LUs below 28.500.

10 Meter beacons can be found between 28.175 and 28.300. Comprehensive lists of beacons can be found in the Amateur Radio Almanac, The "New Short-wave Propagation Handbook", and the ARRL Operating Manual. Study them before the contest to learn the openings.



You CAN win with a small station. I took the Mixed mode prize in 1985 using a TS-530, Clipperton-L (400w) to a A3 at 35'. Others have done very well using 100w and a tribander. The *will* to win and some good Sporadic-E can make a successful weekend.

Propagation forecasts. Watch them closely. Low A index mean conditions will be good but even better for

the NE. High A index 10-15+ may mean it will better for us in the south.

Most of all: Have fun! This is one of my favorite contests. Big rates, plenty room to call CQ, and a real chance to WIN a contest with a slight advantage for "us", for a change. The Northeast has their DX contests, West Coast has the Domestic contests, WE have the ARRL 10 Meter contest.

NORTH AMERICAN QSO PARTY CW & SSB TEAM RESULTS – AUGUST 2021

George Wagner, K5KG

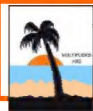
The North American QSO Party contests are low-power-only, 12-hour CW, SSB and RTTY events on separate weekends in January and August. These are ideal contests for both beginners and seasoned contesters. It has been said that the NAQP'S are the simplest contests of all. Here is where you can find the full NAQP story: <https://ncjweb.com/naqp/>

Teams are formed to enhance competition in the NAQP contests. Teams consist of two to five Single Operator and Single Operator Assisted stations. Individual scores are combined to form a team score. In the past few years, I have formed CW and SSB teams,

not necessarily for FCG members, but for anyone who wishes to participate. As a result, the teams have volunteers from the FCG and others from throughout North America. When looking for team members, I am looking for beginners and top scorers alike. Since I am not an RTTY operator, I invite those who are to join a RTTY team, or form one of their own.

The NAQP is sponsored by the National Contest Journal, which publishes the results of the competitions. Here are the results for the FCG CW and SSB teams in the August 2021 NAQP, as reported in NCJ, November/December 2021.

TEAM RANK- ING	CW TEAM	OPERATORS	SCORE
16/107	K4OJ/KP2	NP2X, N4EEB, K0LUZ, K4NMR, K4EJ	494,395
24/107	K4OJ/SAR	K5KG, W4CU, NK4O, N7WY, N0OJ	309,090
38/107	K4OJ/HIL	WO4O, W4LT, KM4HI, N4AO, NX4N	188,973
54/107	K4OJ/MAO	N4FP, NE8P, K3SV, AA8R	118,522
	SSB TEAM		
18/69	ORANGE CRUSH 2	WO4O, KM4HI, K4EJ, WI9WI, KP2OJ	103,842
24/69	ORANGE CRUSH 1	KP2RUM, K4SBZ, K0LUZ, NK4O, K4FCG	72,881
32/69	ORANGE CRUSH 3	K5KG, NE8P	46,990



CW WW CW— November 27-28 0000—2359Z

Dan Street, K1TO

10 - K1MM and K3LR showed how wide open 10 was a few weeks ago! 5000 QSOs were made from D4. Should be open to EU all local morning long. Go early for eastern EU as darkness is already falling there early. The EAs and Gs last much longer as they are on the western side of EU. One day is a little better than the other and there is no way to predict which day. Big piles on the Africans are usually better Sunday as you accumulate QSOs on Saturday. Maybe a JA around 23Z, but no JA runs here unless single-band.

15 - Longer and deeper openings than 10 and similar direction. When things slow down on 10, move back to 15 and follow the closing band to EU. With some extra sunspots, running JA is much more realistic on 15 and especially Saturday as Sunday is already Monday AM in Japan. Don't overstay. Consider skipping 20 in favor of the bottomless pit of EU on 40.

20 - Open before and after 10 + 15, but MUF rises in the morning to EU so those bands should be used. 20 may be open to JA right at the start and Saturday evening as well. The W EU guys hang in there many hours after 10. There might be a EU opening at 07Z or so, or at least to the Middle East. Those openings tend to favor us, so if you are serious, keep checking 20 both nights.

40 - Totally different. Nighttime+ band. This is where you will find wall to wall EU at the start. Some EU will stay put right through and beyond their sunrise. If you have a beam on 40, the combo of EU and JA at 08+Z is neat. 2200z to end this should be prime run territory since you won't be chasing JAs on the high bands.

80 - With sunspots increased a tad, the tendency is to linger on the higher bands. But there is lots of merit to QSYs here as signals are not necessarily weak-

er. The opening to W EU that happens in the 06Z hour is really good. Stations are workable beyond sunrise, but not generally hours after sunrise. After 08Z, 80 is nearly barren with occasional Caribbean and Pacific. EU QRM is heavy as they work each other the first night and lighter the second night.

160 - As with 10, one day is better than the other and there is no way to predict which day. It doesn't always work this way, but sometimes sunrise on the eastern end of the path is the only time some mults are workable. Check on the hour beginning at 03Z and peaking around 05Z. There is a pretty sharp decline at local sunrise and stations never come back up. After 08Z, 160 is a quick tune with frequently only single-banders or the occasional large pileup. Technically, there are 3 nights to consider and occasionally you must wait until the last hour, when all bands are open and you are most tired, to knock off some 160 mults.

Assisted - In the FQP, High Power entrants are more likely to go Assisted. It seems that LP and Assisted don't go together well. It seems logical. Same for CQ WW? Only if you are very well equipped and quick will you get through. Moving slightly off freq is hugely useful for all. The Assisted entrant gets an endless supply of multipliers, but unless there are a lot of garden-variety QSOs also in your log, you'll waste more time calling a mult than easily working Qs. Stated another way, there are so many more mults available in CQ WW vs. say ARRL DX that the strategy varies a little. If you are not well-equipped, there will be a lot of failed calls and you need to balance the rarity of who you are calling with its value. Always validate the callsign of the station you are calling, or you run the risk of adding garbage to your log, as well as wasting time. If the other guy just sends TU, then when he answers you don't give the report and just ask CALL?

Low Power - Call CQ when you can. Less productive hours exist, but nonetheless run while you can. Higher in the band is fine!



FQP Update

Dan Street, K1TO

FQP 2021 Completed

- 1225 logs processed. This is up from 1186, no surprise since Mobiles, Expeditions and Multi-ops were reinstated.
- Total Valid QSOs 170K (vs. 198K in 2020 and 125K in 2019 - TBD why we were down below 140 avg QSOs in 2021).
- Log checking is done, scores compiled, almost all of the plaque winners identified and many of the charts are completed.

All is well ahead of schedule.

FQP 2021 Remaining

- Plaque Sponsors/Production/Distribution
- FQP Certificates
- 1x1 Winners/Certificates
- FQP Records
- Soapbox
- Mobile Window encroachers
- Write-up/Post to web site (tnx W4WF/KU8E).

FQP 2022 (and beyond)

Preparations for 25th FQP

- 1X1s - can we get 25?
- Rules
- Publicity and press releases
- Plaques
- Web site

vy 73, Dan

Welcome Aboard

Please welcome the following FCG new members since the last publication of the Contest Gazette in May of 2020.

AA5NT	Dick	Hoff	06/25/20
K4MY	Robert	Haxen	05/24/20
K4RFB	Bob	Konior	09/30/21
K5SEU	Sebastian	Sprenger	08/13/20
K8VA	Mike	Koralewski	02/25/21
K9GS	Gary	Schwartz	12/31/20
K9TM	Tim	MITCHELL	12/31/20
K9XV	Thomas	Chance	05/15/21
KB1PA	Barry	Porter	05/15/21
KB3NG	Rick	Battle	06/25/20
KB4EE	Fred	Lindeman	05/15/21
KC4LZN	John	Wilson	04/30/21
KD4Q	Robert	Gerace	09/01/20
KK9R	Mac	English	12/14/20
KM4RL	Bob	Wentzell	01/01/21
KN4YRM	Randon	Loeb	09/30/21
KO4ETR	Robert	Hopkins	02/02/21
KQ4R	Ed	Milcarsky	03/12/21
KW4G	Roy	Jackson	12/14/20
KX3H	Anthony	Casciato	01/01/21
N0OJ	Ryan	Dahlberg	12/14/20
N1MT	Mark	Toussaint	02/02/21
N4GG	Hal	Kennedy	08/13/21
N4RRR	D.J.	Finch	05/25/20

N4TB	Terry	Burkholder	08/14/20
N5SY	Nicholas	Gurley	09/30/21
NF5KF	Claude	Terrier	06/25/20
NK4O	Andrew	Stockton	12/15/20
NK7U	Joe	Rudi	01/01/21
NL7WA	John	Gumz	05/25/20
NM2O	Raymond	Conrad	01/01/21
NV9L	Valerie	Hotzfeld	04/30/21
W3WW	Don	Mohney Jr	01/01/21
W4DHH	John	Mauro	01/01/21
W4IEE	Tom	Porada	12/14/20
W4KFH	Kurt	Hoyer	05/01/21
W4THI	Rick	Lucas	03/08/21
W4ZGR	Peter	Archibald	02/25/21
W5SJ	Bill	Priakos	08/13/21
W8RA	Bruce	Whitney	09/09/20
W9ZR	Randy	Schaaf	01/01/21
WA1F	Robert	Finkelsen	09/30/21
WA1S	Ann	Finkelsen	09/30/21
WB4EHG	Richard	Joerger	07/31/20
WB4UBK	Donald	Wood	07/31/20
WB4YAL	John	Dolan	01/01/21
WB9Z	Jerry	Rosalius	04/30/21



Frequent Contester Program - Approved Contests November 20 — December 31, 2021

Contest	Type	Weight	Date	Time	CW	SSB	Other	
							RTTY	Digital
LZ DX Contest	DX	5	20-Nov	1200Z	C	S		
All Austrian 160-Meter Contest	DX	5	20-Nov	1600Z	C			
ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, SSB	Major	10	20-Nov	2100Z		S		
CQ Worldwide DX Contest, CW	Major	10	27-Nov	0000Z	C			
ARRL 160-Meter Contest	Major	10	3-Dec	2200Z	C			
FT Roundup	Major	10	4-Dec	1800Z				D
ARRL 10-Meter Contest	Major	20	11-Dec	0000Z	C	S		
TRC Digi Contest	DX	5	11-Dec	0600Z			R	
OK DX RTTY Contest	DX	5	18-Dec	0000Z			R	
RAC Winter Contest	DX	5	18-Dec	0000Z	C	S		
Croatian CW Contest	DX	5	18-Dec	1400Z	C			
Stew Perry Topband Challenge	Major	10	18-Dec	1500Z	C			

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The Florida Contest Group



"I love contesting. There is something about the camaraderie, discipline and knowledge contesting demands that fits me; it doesn't fit everyone . . . but it sure fits me." – Jim White, K4OJ (SK)

The Florida Contest Group (FCG), an ARRL affiliated club, is Florida's amateur radio contest club. It's members share a common interest in the sport of amateur radio contesting. FCG members have a wide range of contesting experience, from beginners to World Champions. They willingly share their knowledge and skills to promote ham radio contesting in Florida. Members, who number in excess of 300, range from Jacksonville to South Florida. FCG has a "Panhandle" division for those contesters living in the Florida Panhandle who are outside the ARRL's 175 mile "club circle".

The Florida Contest Group supports and encourages all types of contesting, from HF to light, all modes, power classes and skill levels.